

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 24, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ISSUES PARTIAL VETOES

(Jackson, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour has vetoed provisions of two appropriations bills that would divert funds from valuable social service programs to the state attorney general's office. At the same time, he has preserved a \$1 million increase for youth activities sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs and Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation.

The Governor vetoed Section 9 of House Bill 1689, which would divert \$5.5 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) funds away from the Department of Human Services (DHS). "Absent this appropriation to the Attorney General's office, these funds would be appropriated to DHS for the purpose of providing valuable social service programs to the poor," Governor Barbour said in a veto message.

Each year, the federal government provides funds for the State of Mississippi to provide services to about 22,500 Mississippians on welfare and to help these Mississippians most at risk of sinking into dependency. The State, through DHS, uses these funds for essential social service missions such as monthly assistance payments, help with transportation costs to and from a job, and our state foster care system.

Section 9 of House Bill 1689 puts these efforts at risk by diverting resources from DHS.

"In previous years, I have approved legislation which has diverted \$4.5 million of our reoccurring annual allotment of TANF funds from the federal government away from DHS to the Attorney General's office. These funds have benefited Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA, which I support. In fact, I am signing into law Section 15 of House Bill 1681 which provides an additional \$1 million for the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation."

"Section 9 of House Bill 1689 increases this diversion by another \$1 million when DHS faces increased federal mandates. While DHS and I are committed to working with the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA to maintain their activities through support from the TANF program, the state can not afford for additional TANF funds to be diverted from the core mission of the TANF program."

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